

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article for placement in the crotch region of an undergarment, comprising:

a pad component, said pad component further comprising

a liquid permeable top cover;

a liquid impermeable baffle;

a sealed peripheral edge between said top cover and said baffle;

an absorbent structure disposed between said top cover and said baffle  
and circumscribed by said peripheral edge;

protective wing portions extending laterally outward from lateral sides of said sealed peripheral edge of said pad component such that said absorbent structure does not extend into said wing portions, said wing portions having dimensions so as to wrap at least partially around the crotch portion of the undergarment;

said wing portions extending longitudinally along both sides of a transverse centerline of said pad and comprising an asymmetric shape with an overlap region disposed completely forward of a transverse centerline of said pad.

2. (Previously presented) The absorbent article as in claim 1, wherein said wing portions comprise an outboard edge that tapers from said overlap region towards said lateral side of said pad.

3. (Original) The absorbent article as in claim 1, wherein said overlap regions are disposed at a forward most position on said wing portions.

4. (Previously presented) The absorbent article as in claim 3, wherein said wing portions comprise a forward most edge that extends perpendicular from said lateral side of said pad and defines said overlap regions.

5. (Original) The absorbent article as in claim 3, wherein said wing portions comprise a forward most edge that extends at an angle from said lateral side of said pad towards a forward most longitudinal end of said pad.

6. (Previously presented) The absorbent article as in claim 1, wherein said wing portions are foldable along laterally inboard fold lines that are variably positionable relative to said pad lateral sides while maintaining an overlapping relationship between said overlap regions that is completely forward of the transverse centerline of said pad.

7. (Original) The absorbent article as in claim 6, wherein said fold lines are angled away from said pad lateral sides from a forward most point of said fold lines to a rearward most point of said fold lines.

8. (Original) The absorbent article as in claim 6, wherein said fold lines are angled towards said pad lateral sides from a forward most point of said fold lines to a rearward most point of said fold lines.

9. (Original) The absorbent article as in claim 1, further comprising an attaching mechanism between said overlap regions of said wing portions.

10. (Original) The absorbent article as in claim 1, wherein said article is one of a sanitary napkin, panty liner, and adult incontinent article.

11. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article for placement in the crotch region of an undergarment, comprising:

a pad component, said pad component further comprising

a liquid permeable top cover;

a liquid impermeable baffle;

a sealed peripheral edge between said top cover and said baffle;

an absorbent structure disposed between said top cover and said baffle  
and circumscribed by said sealed peripheral edge;

protective wing portions extending laterally outward from lateral sides of said  
sealed peripheral edge of said pad component such that said absorbent structure does  
not extend into said wing portions, said wing portions having dimensions so as to wrap  
at least partially around the crotch portion of the undergarment;

said wing portions extending longitudinally on both sides of a transverse  
centerline of said pad;

said wing portions further comprising laterally outboard regions that overlap in a  
folded configuration of said wing portion around the crotch region of an undergarment,  
said overlap regions disposed at a forward position entirely on one side of said  
transverse centerline;

said wing portions having dimensions so as to be foldable along ~~a plurality of~~  
variably positionable laterally inboard fold lines that angle away from said pad lateral  
sides from a forward most point of said fold lines to a rearward most point of said fold  
lines; and

wherein in a maximum angled position of said fold lines such that said overlap  
regions are maintained at least partially overlapping, said overlap regions remain  
entirely on said one side of said transverse centerline.

12. (Original) The absorbent article as in claim 11, wherein said wing portions comprise an asymmetric shape.

13. (Original) The absorbent article as in claim 11, wherein said wing portions extend at least about two-thirds along said lateral sides of said pad.

14. (Previously presented) The absorbent article as in claim 11, wherein said wing portions comprise a forward most edge that extends perpendicular from said lateral side of said pad.

15. (Original) The absorbent article as in claim 11, wherein said wing portions comprise a forward most edge that extends at an angle from said lateral side of said pad towards a forward most longitudinal end of said pad.

16. (Original) The absorbent article as in claim 11, further comprising an attaching mechanism between said overlap regions of said wing portions.

17. (Original) The absorbent article as in claim 11, wherein said article is one of a sanitary napkin, panty liner, and adult incontinent article.